

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on March 21, 2003. Claims 1 - 9 are currently pending in the application. Applicant amends claims 1 - 9, and adds new claims 10 - 18. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 8, lines 12 through page 9, line 16 of Applicant's specification.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 - 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,943,044 to Martinelli et al. Applicant amends claims 1 - 9 to further clarify the nature of his invention, and respectfully traverses this rejection.

Martinelli discloses a force sensing semiconductive touchpad including pan control region 28 that controls a rate of panning in response to a variable amount of pressure that may be applied to pan control region 28 (see, e.g., column 8, lines 26 - 36 of Martinelli).

In independent claims 1, 4 and 7, Applicant discloses a medium, method and apparatus for moving an object displayed on a monitor by means of a pressure-sensitive controller, the method comprising the steps of: a) sensing a pushing pressure exerted by a user on said controller of the computer by said one or more pressure-sensitive means, b) determining a pressure-sensing output signal depending on said sensed pressure, and c) moving the object within the screen depending on a magnitude of said pressure-sensing output signal, where the magnitude is indicative of a highest pushing pressure exerted on said pressure-sensitive means during a current operating cycle of said pressure-sensitive means and the movement of the object within the screen of the monitor represents an action executed in a three-dimensional space.

Martinelli discloses a force sensing semiconductive touchpad for providing information about the position of and pressure applied by an operator's finger to the touchpad in order to

control panning and scrolling operation in a graphical interface (see, e.g., column 7, lines 33 through column 8, line 5 of Martinelli). Unlike Applicant's claimed invention, Martinelli fails to disclose or suggest using pressure-sensitive means to control movement of an object on a screen display, where that movement represents an action executed in a three-dimensional space.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4, and 7 are not made obvious by Martinelli, and are therefore allowable. As claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 each depend from one of allowable claims 1, 4, and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are also allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 - 18, consisting of independent claims 1, 4, and 7, and the claims dependent therefrom, is in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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